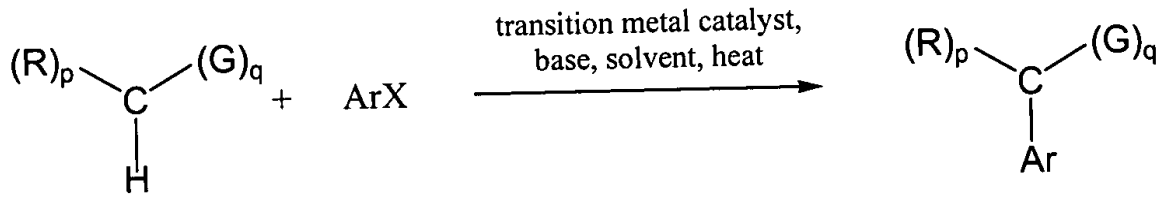
Clean Version of Amended Claims

1. **(twice amended)** A method represented by Scheme 1:



1 2

Scheme 1

wherein

G represents, independently for each occurrence, an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of formyl, acyl, -C(O)OR, -C(O)NR_2, nitro, nitroso, -$S(O)_2$R, -SO_3R, -$S(O)_2NR_2$, -C(NR)-R, -C(NOR)-R, and -$C(NNR_2)$-R;

R represents, independently for each occurrence, hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, halogen, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylthio, arylthio, alkoxy, aryloxy, or -$(CH_2)_m$-R_8;

Cont'd

Ar represents an aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety;

X represents halogen, -OTf, -ONf, -OTs, -OMs, (alkyl)$S(O)_2O$-, or (aryl)$S(O)_2O$-;

the transition metal catalyst consists essentially of a Group VIIIA metal and one to four inclusive non-chelating ligands selected from the group consisting of OAc, Cl, CH_3CN, triphenylphosphine, tri(o-tolyl)phosphine, trimethylphosphine, triethylphosphine, tripropylphosphine, triisopropylphosphine, tributylphosphine, tricyclohexylphosphine, trimethyl phosphite, triethyl phosphite, tripropyl phosphite, triisopropyl phosphite, tributyl phosphite and tricyclohexyl phosphite;

base represents a Bronsted base;

R_8 represents independently for each occurrence a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycle or polycycle;

m, independently for each occurrence, is an integer selected from the range 0 to 8 inclusive;

q is an integer selected from the range 1 to 3 inclusive; and

p is an integer equal to (3-q).

(Cancld.)